Acute Hemorrhage in a Giant Bulla

Osamu Nagashima¹, Yohei Suzuki², Akihiko Iwase¹ and Kazuhsa Takahashi²

Key words: emphysematous bulla, COPD, hemorrhage

(Intern Med 51: 2673, 2012)
(DOI: 10.2169/internalmedicine.51.8335)

A 61-year-old woman was admitted to our hospital due to sudden hemoptysis. Chest X-rays showed niveau within an emphysematous bulla in the left upper lung (Picture 1). The following day, a large, nearly round, smooth marginal shadow appeared within the bulla (Picture 2). Chest CT showed niveau and a mass shadow in the left bulla and emphysematous changes in both lungs (Picture 3). Since anemia rapidly developed, we highly suspected continuous hemorrhage in the bulla. A left upper lobectomy was performed by thoracoscopy. A pulmonary cyst was found to have adhered to the apex of the left lung. The upper lobe was discolored by bleeding. There was also a massive clot within the cyst. On pathological examination, a giant pulmonary cyst was observed at the left apex (8×5 cm). The pulmonary cyst wall showed fibrotic changes, as well as histiocytes, lymphocytes, and hemosiderin deposition. The source of bleeding was unclear. Neither malignant cells nor infectious organelles were detected.

The authors state that they have no Conflict of Interest (COI).